FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION:
CONGREGATIONAL INTERFAITH RESPONSA

Name of congregation: Temple Emanuel of Tempe
Address: 5801 South Rural Road
          Tempe, AZ 85283
Phone Number: (480) 838-1414
Number of Members: 504
UAHC Region: Pacific Southwest Council
Rabbi: Andrew Straus
Outreach Chairperson: Meryl Briscoe
Co-chairs: Joan and Bob Reichard

Brief Description: Our goal was to create a program that could be used as a sample program for the region's project, L'Dor V'Dor. We formed a committee called Generation to Generation to design and oversee programs that meet the needs of the parents and grandparents whose families are affected by interfaith marriages. The program that we created was inspired by "Dear Abby" and involved publishing questions and responsa in our Temple Emanuel Bulletin on interfaith issues affecting the congregants of Temple Emanuel. The difference between our column and Dear Abby is that the answers are submitted by congregants and edited by our committee. (Please see our attached bulletin articles.) We selected this project model rather than a traditional class or one time event in order to reach the entire congregation via the bulletin.

Additional benefits have proven to be:
- No cost
- Encourages discussion of these sensitive issues among congregants and within families
- Respects peoples’ time and privacy
- Committee members have become visible to congregants for personal support on interfaith issues
- Can easily be replicated and could be a joint project of several congregations

Because of publication deadlines our article appeared bi-monthly in the 2000-2001 bulletins. For the coming year it is our goal to publish monthly.

Program Goal: To publish questions and responses on interfaith issues that affect the congregants of Temple Emanuel.

Target Population: Families that are affected by interfaith marriages

Number of Participants: On our committee — 6-8

Number and Length of Sessions: 5 committee meetings of 1½ hours each to prepare questions and edit congregants' responses.
Staff Required: None
Total Cost of Program: None
Source of Funding: Not needed
Fee for Attendees: None

Logistics: The committee met in a classroom utilizing a white board, laptop computer and printer.

Instructions to Facilitator: The facilitator reads the responses from the previous month’s question and, together as a committee, a new question is developed.

Evaluation of Program: This is the second year of a three-year program. Next year the questions and responses will run each month instead of every other month. The dialogue within families is encouraging.
Generation to Generation
Interfaith Responsa
September, 2000

Please share your experiences with our congregational family by answering this month's question. We will edit your response and protect your privacy. Return your response to any committee member, or leave in the Temple office for Bob and Joan Reichard, or FAX it to their home 480.726.6991 (email: Jreichard1@aol.com).

_____ You may publish my name.
_____ Please do not use my name.

I am a new member who is neither Jewish nor planning on conversion. I am married to a Jewish man. We are expecting our first child in the spring and are planning to raise the child Jewish. My husband's family is all back east, so I have no one here to help me. I know nothing. Where do I begin? What is really important for me to do?